

ABSTRACT

The invention is directed to an expandable stent for implantation in a body lumen, such as a coronary artery or peripheral vein. The stent consists of a plurality of radially expandable cylindrical elements generally aligned on a common longitudinal stent axis and interconnected by one or more interconnecting members placed so as to limit longitudinal contraction during radial expansion. The individual radially expandable cylindrical elements are formed in a serpentine pattern having bends alternating in peaks and valleys designed to expand evenly under radial stress, and to maximize the overall radial expansion ratio. Each peak and valley includes reinforcing members that extend across and proximate to each bend. Sizing and construction of the struts forming the peaks and valleys can create bimodal deployment wherein the struts bend under increasing stresses to enable the stent to expand to larger diameters.

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